

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001372

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOCIALIZING WITH THE SOVIETS

REF: HELSINKI 2672

1. DEPARTMENT IS NOT AWARE THAT SOVIETS ARE MAKING UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY OVERTURES TO OUR POSTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES (PARA 2 REFTEL). AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, THEY HAVE IN DETENTE PERIOD BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS, AND THEY ARE CONTINUING THIS BEHAVIOR NOW. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ANGOLA, SOVIET DIPLOMATS HAVE DENIGRATED ITS IMPORTANCE AS AN ISSUE WITH IMPACT FOR US-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND HAVE EMPHASIZED A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL ATTITUDE.

2. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE SEEKING TO MAKE CLEAR TO SOVIETS AT ALL LEVELS THAT WE TAKE THEIR INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA
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VERY SERIOUSLY AND CONSIDER, AS SECRETARY SAID IN HIS

DECEMBER 23 PRESS CONFERENCE, THEIR "ACTIONS IN ANGOLA
INCOMPATIBLE WITH A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS, AND THEY ARE
CERTAIN TO AFFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP UNLESS A DIPLOMATIC
SOLUTION IS FOUND." DEPARTMENT THUS SUGGESTS EMBASSY
DECLINE ANY SOVIET SOCIAL OVERTURES THAT ARE CONSIDERED

ABOVE THE NORM OF STANDARD PRACTICE, AND IN THE CONTACTS
IT DOES HAVE WITH SOVIET PERSONNEL MAKE CLEAR OUR DIS-
APPROVAL OF MOSCOW'S ANGOLAN INTERVENTION AND OUR CONCERN
THAT IT WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT OUR RELATIONS, USING AS
GUIDANCE SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 23 STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT.
INGERSOLL

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